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REPORTS AND REPORT.

The Tribune is very indignant in its righteous soul because the report of the Church auditors was not read in detail at the Conference. The members of the Church were all satisfied with the general statement of the auditors, because they know them to be honest, capable business men. They know that any irregularity in the accounts, any mismanagement, would be detected and reported. They know, too, that the present financial status of the Church, and the liberal aid it gives to wards, missionaries, schools, etc., from the public funds, form a complete refutation of the silly insinuations of the Tribune. It is apparent to the Church members that but for the strictest honesty and most capable management, the financial status of the Church would be different from what it is. They do not wish the time set apart for worship and instructions in spiritual matters wasted by the reading of figures that would leave but an indefinite idea in the minds of the audience. The auditors' report was perfectly satisfactory to the Saints, as they proved by their vote of acceptance.

But, what business is that of the Tribune, anyhow?

We would like to call the attention of that sheet to the financial status of the City, as a matter of more interest to it. That status, under the management of its own party dictators and slave-drivers is now so bad that the City Auditor dares not publish the report the law makes it his duty to prepare for the public. The money of the City has been squandered to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars. Money must be borrowed, under some false pretense or other, to pay last year's deficit. Taxes are being raised beyond reasonable limits. But the City Auditor delays the report that ought to have been given to the public on or before the first Monday in February. Here is a mire for the Tribune to wallow in. Why does it not do so to its heart's content?

There is nothing to conceal in the affairs of the Church. Can that be said of the financial affairs of the City under "American" management? How would it be for the Tribune to mind its own business?

LAW FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS.

Our observation of the dealings of university faculties with student ruffianism throughout the country leads us to believe that the professors are mostly at sea in their attempts at the solution of the hazing problem. In this particular offense, expulsion of the youth who may have taken part in some brutal injury inflicted by a mob upon a single student is no adequate remedy and fails to meet the requirements of the case.

In general we do not advocate greater severity in the punishment of student pranks. Our opinion is that in most cases college professors are too sensitive and are too ready to expel or discipline students for petty offenses. This is particularly the case in their dealings with dull and impertinent students. In such cases repressive measures, expulsion, suspension, etc., are the usual resort, especially of weak teachers; yet in these cases it is often encouragement and help, not punishment and disgrace, that the student really needs and usually deserves. But in the case of hazing, there is a very different problem.

The following account of a strike on the part of the undergraduate students of New York University is suggestive: After listening, in chapel this morning, to an official announcement of the suspension of A. A. Young, captain of the varsity crew, and president of the junior class, the men of 1909 first, then followed by the entire student body, voted to suspend themselves until Young's case had been settled. Today's situation on University Heights is the result of the hazing of Henry Block, a freshman who yesterday was treated to a ducking in the campus fountain, in front of the Hall of Fame, because, in the estimation of his fellow-students, he has never shown much loyalty for the university color-violet. Young was suspended by the Faculty Committee on Discipline. He was charged with having something to do with the hazing.

The father of Block, the student who was hazed, had threatened to proceed against his son's hazers in the courts if the faculty did not expel him.

We are of the opinion that the hazers of this or any other student should be placed on trial in the regular courts. Faculties in universities have rarely shown any aptitude toward successful dealing with student pranks. The measures adopted by them are necessarily limited to expulsion. Sometimes the offending student is glad to be expelled; at other times his expulsion makes him a sort of hero in the estimation of his fellow students; and in some cases, as in the present instance so much sympathy for the scapegoat or even for the guilty student that the school is shaken to its foundations over a ridiculous trifle.

Faculties would do well to permit the law to take its course: to let the judiciary of the city or state deal with student ruffianism. A night or two in jail would cure the mistaken ardor of any set of young ruffians who make a cowardly and combined assault, perhaps injuring for life, or maiming a single

student, simply because his notions of loyalty to the college colors do not coincide with theirs.

As long as faculties persist in trying to deal with this class of offenders, just that long, in our opinion, shall we have the spectacle presented in this case. The present "strike" affects all the departments at New York University—the school of arts, applied science, and pure science, the enrollment in which is approximately 400.

This being the case some sort of unsatisfactory truce will in all probability be patched and the same unsatisfactory proceeding will recur as often as a gang of students decide to abuse one of their number.

Two things, we believe, the average faculty should learn: first to be more tolerant of slights or jests at their own expense, or of failure on the part of the student to master the special line of study that is one or another professor's hobby; second, to be less tolerant of students who resort to the cowardly and unmanly practice of hazing in any of all its varied and despicable forms. The first kind of student offenses rarely amount to much and very seldom require suspension of the student. The latter kind should be promptly, handed over to the courts, which alone are competent to deal with such crimes and misdemeanors.

CASTRO DEFIANT.

No matter what the real merits of the controversy between this country and Venezuela may be, President Castro is making a serious mistake in assuming an attitude of defiance. The United States is the best friend Venezuela has had. Uncle Sam has rescued it from European aggression on more than one occasion. Castro seems to have forgotten this, and now he refuses any concessions and all compromises, even when urged in the most friendly spirit. The president of Venezuela is making a very serious mistake. He will surely forfeit all sympathy, in time, if he continues his policy of strife, and it may happen that when the final settlement comes, this country shall be under the necessity of demanding the retirement of Castro in favor of some more reasonable chief executive of the people of Venezuela.

We may admit that the case of the asphalt company is not very strong. The company admits that it paid tribute to insurgents, but claims it was compelled to do so, the government not being strong enough to protect its property. Venezuela has all the more incentive to submit that case to arbitration. If its contention is just, arbitration would prove it.

There are other cases pending. In the case of the so-called Critchfield claim, the United States and Venezuela company appealed directly to the state department without first seeking redress in the Venezuelan courts. This, it seems, was a mistake on the part of the company. In the case of the Orinoco Steamship company, it is undisputed that the issue has already been referred to arbitration and a decision rendered by an umpire appointed by the Queen of Holland. The claim that the decision should be ignored, can hardly be defended, since, as Secretary Hay pointed out: "A failure to comply with the award would, moreover, involve a grave discourtesy to the eminent arbitrators who sat in the case, and a serious injury to the cause of arbitration."

Then, there is the case of an alleged American citizen, who was expelled from Venezuela. Castro claims that he was a fugitive from France, and also from the criminal courts of Mexico. Venezuela, then, has a clear case, from a Venezuelan point of view, in all these points under controversy. Why, then, does Castro refuse to arbitrate?

Secretary Root's course has been dignified and statesmanlike throughout. Instead of sending an ultimatum to Venezuela, he made the diplomatic correspondence public and left it entirely to Congress to decide what further steps are to be taken. Venezuela can be compelled to arbitrate, and then prudence would demand the retirement of Castro for good, and the election of a President who appreciates the friendship of the United States.

CHANGE OF OPINION.

The fickleness of public opinion is well illustrated in the comments made on the Aldrich bill. Some such measure was demanded by financiers and business men all over the country, who favored the issue of an emergency currency in times of financial stringency. When the stringency came last year the banks simply took it upon themselves to issue such currency. To meet the clamor for currency legislation, Senator Aldrich introduced his bill providing for an emergency currency under government sanction. The bill was supposed to have the support of a majority of the Republicans in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. It was thought to have the approval of the treasury department and the President was said to be in the main in favor of it and to desire its passage. But now it is opposed by many who first demanded it. Bankers are divided in their opinion of its merits, and so are other business men.

The trouble, we presume, with all such measures is that what suits some interests does not agree with others. Congress is in the position of the clergyman who promised his parishioners rain, as soon as they could agree what particular day they all wanted it. That day never came. For there was always someone who wanted the rain-making postponed till the next day. And so, if Congress is to postpone currency reforms till some measure can be formulated to give universal satisfaction, there will be no reform.

ABOUT SOUTH AMERICA.

Some folks in the United States have an idea that what is called Latin-America is a part of the world hardly worthy of notice. Mr. John Barratt, director of the International Bureau of American Republics, is doing all in his power to dispel that absurd idea, and disseminate correct information. Mr. Barratt has an article in the World Today on the great commercial opportunities of South America. It is substantially the lecture he gave in this City some time ago. He reminds his

readers that the United States could be plumped down in Brazil and leave room for Germany; that Chile, if transferred to North America, would extend from San Diego, Cal., to the middle of Alaska and as far inland as California; that in Bolivia could be placed the state of Texas twice over and still leave room for Arkansas and Kansas; that in Peru could be laid all the Atlantic coast states from Maine to Georgia, and that in Ecuador the state of Illinois could be set down over and over again. He tells us that Buenos Ayres has a population of over 1,000,000 and that it has a finer system of docks and wharves, a more costly and beautiful opera house, a larger club and a more extensive newspaper plant than any city in the United States, and that at its wharves may be seen scores of merchant vessels flying the flag of every important nation on the globe except the United States. He tells of the immense trade opportunities South America offers. Verily, the good will of South American republics is worth while cultivating. The people of the American continents may yet be called upon, by necessity, to stand together against the rest of the world.

Castro has an unequalled faculty for making little fish talk like big whales.

Lazy people are generally great talkers, probably because talk is cheap.

St. Petersburg's jails are much over-taxed. And yet they produce no revenue.

With \$5,000,000 fortifications, Pearl harbor will be the Pearl of the Pacific.

Candidate Watson knows exactly where he will stand the morning after the election.

And when they are married, will the Abruzzis spend their honeymoon on Mount McKinley?

Being himself a large man, it is but natural that Mr. Taft should make an effort to secure the delegates-at-large.

The earth is said to be dying. Owning, probably, to the fact that the great corporations have got a dead clinch on it.

The next time one of Castro's officious postmasters opens one of Uncle Sam's mail pouches, he is very apt to find a mailed first in it.

Not only are the laws silent in the midst of arms but soon the arms themselves will be silent if Maxim's invention is all that is claimed for it.

A British scientist advances the theory that the north pole is shifting its position. Up to date it has been very elusive, as explorers have found.

The prohibition sentiment of the country is easily accounted for. It is the awakening of the nation's conscience to the extent of the curse of the drink habit.

If the negroes in the south cannot have equal rights with the whites, the President is determined that they shall at least have equal railway accommodations for the same money.

Not only has a doctor been put in command of the hospital ship Relief, but now Rear Admiral Evans himself is taking orders from a doctor, and obeying them without a murmur.

Governor Johnson says that he is a receptive candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination. Others have said the same thing, but he is not doing all in his power to shoo the nomination into his coop.

Emma Goldman was escorted to the boundary by the Canadian police, but there Uncle Sam put no obstacle in the way of her entrance into the United States. To have done so would have been to give her an importance she does not possess.

Mr. Savage has sent notices to various theaters throughout the country telling them that they will continue to give excerpts from "The Merry Widow" at their peril. It certainly is a perilous thing to have anything to do with the merry widow.

MATRIMONIAL ANARCHISTS.

(Hartford Courant.)  
Young Alfred Vanderbilt sailed on the Mauretania. The divorce proceedings began the hour he left. In a stateroom across the way from his there rests the frame of his beautiful cousin, Consuelo, the Duchess of Marlborough, who has already been once successfully through the divorce mill and there strolled down to the ship to see these two sail the mother of the duchess, who had not only got a divorce but another husband. Thus the one family presented to the American people the entertaining trifling of woe by domestic life—sail in the works, suit won, and second husband secured after divorcing the first. It's a great thing to inherit money.

COSTS OF DOMESTIC LIFE.

(Hartford Times.)  
"Practically the only place at which they met was at the horse show in this city," says an account of the young New York millionaire and his wife, who are about to be legally separated, after having been actually separated most of the time since their marriage eight years ago. It is a good deal easier for a young couple to get along together on \$25 a week than on an income of \$2,500,000 a year.

GROUNDHOG PROVES A FRAUD.

(New York Sun.)  
This year the watchers have been busy all along the line and the groundhog is at last exposed. From Baltimore south the weather since Feb. 2 has been more than normally beneficent. There have been ugly days, of course, as might be expected at this season, but in the main there were mild winds and pleasant skies and gracious landscapes. At Alexandria, Va., for example, this dispensation was especially obvious. From the neighborhood of Richmond, Charlottesville, Danville, Charlotte, Greensboro and so on down to Augusta and Atlanta, the testimony is overwhelmingly concurrent. The groundhog has been discredited. The prophecies based on the absurd old superstition are set at naught. No longer need we give them serious or respectful audience. The truth is that the groundhog is a stupid and inconsequent animal. He is a lazy, inert brute. He doesn't know anything more about the weather of the future than does the ordinary weathercock. may come out of his hole on Feb. 2, but if so it is only in the capacity

of a rather ignorant and languid observer. He may come out before or after that, he may be out all the time. But in any event he is a humbug and there is no good in him. This is where we dismiss the groundhog and all his ways.

JUST FOR FUN.

Mrs. Bacon—"Don't you think the phonograph is pitched too high?" Mr. Bacon—"No; pitch it on the roof!"—Yonkers Statesman.

Hewitt—"I painted this picture to keep the wolf from the door." Jewett—"If you hang it where the wolf can see it I guess you will succeed."—Judge.

The Patient—"But look here! How do I know all the times I'm getting absent treatment?" The Healer—"Don't worry. I'll send you an itemized bill."—Life.

"Is your husband voracious in his appetite, madam?" "I can't say as he is, doctor. He'll eat anything and everything, long as there's anything to eat."—Baltimore American.

"Janet has told me that you used a naughty word, today, Flossie." "Janet should be a little more definite in her charges, mamma. I use so many."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The Constable—"Yes, your worship, the prisoner is a most suspicious character." The Accused (indignantly)—"It's him that's suspicious. As'm in no suspicious of onybody!"—Punch.

"Cheer up, old man," said the consoling friend. "You know love laughs at locksmiths." "Yes, I know," replied the dejected lover. "But her father ain't a locksmith; he's a boiler-maker."—Detroit Free Press.

Tess—"Mad at him? Why, he wrote a lovely poem to her." Jessie—"Yes; but she never read it. When she saw the title of it she tore the whole thing up in a fit of anger. You see, he called it 'Lines on Mabel's Face.'"—Philadelphia Press.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The Forum for April opens with Henry Litchfield's brilliant analysis of the political situation in America, dealing mainly with Mr. Taft's chances of securing the presidential nomination. In the department of foreign affairs, Mr. A. Maurice Low gives precedence to the recent tragedy in Portugal, and discusses at some length the question, "Was Franco Madman or Unsuccessful Genius?" in his far-sighted summary of the financial situation, Alexander D. Noyes treats especially of "The Recovery from the Recent Panic," and of the probable duration of the period of depression. Clayton Hamilton treats "The Tone of the Mid-Season Plays," and incidentally discusses the merits of no less than 13 recent productions. The department of the book reviews in this issue includes criticisms by Prof. E. M. Hulst, of two recent volumes on the English drama; a survey of noteworthy achievements in English verse, by Brain Hooker, who protests especially against the "Heresy of Modernism," and a discussion of "The Novels of Frank Danby," by Edward Clark Marsh; and short reviews by Arthur Bartlett Maurice, George H. Casanovaj and Grace Isabel Cleveland. The Special Articles include a caustic paper, by Frank Moore Colby, entitled "A Model for Dramatic Critics," an enlightening summary, under the title "Morocco Mortuaries," of the present situation in that unfortunate country; and a most interesting report, by Mrs. Isaac L. Rice, president of the Society for the Suppression of Unnecessary Noise, of what has already been accomplished in connection with the "Children's Hospital Branch." Additional interest is lent to this last article by a fac-simile reproduction of a letter from Dr. Samuel L. Clemens, accepting the presidency of the Children's Branch, 45 East 42nd St., New York.

The following are among the features of the April number of the Broadway Magazine: "Trinity: Church of Mystery," Charles Edward Russell; "Our Falstaffian Army," Rupert Hughes; "Edward W. Bok: Editor Extraordinary," Ada Patterson; "The Call of the Shop," Mabel Porter Dorr; "Edwin H. Blashfield: Mural Painter," Florence Finch Kelly; "In the Thick of the Anti-Trust Fight," Herbert N. Carson; "The Cult of the Snicker in Drama-Land," Harris Morison; Lyon; "Prominent People in Picture and Paragraph," "The Ghosts of Chartre's Mill," Hermine Templeton; "Estelle," Porter Emerson Brown; "In Search of a Parent," E. J. Rath; "The Mystery of the Lace Veil," Broughton Brandenburgh; "The Pursuit of Polly," Mrs. Jacques Futelle; "How It Happened," Thomas J. Ryan; "The Laramie Ghost," Margaret Fawcett; "Walmesley's Literary Pills," Frank Crane; "All in the Game," Owen Kildare; "Renewal," Margaret Belle Houston; "The Drowning Gods Astrir," Charles Buxton Goling; "A Harbor Etching," Clinton Scollard, and "The Human Comedy," Reginald Wright Kauffman.—37 West Twenty-second street, New York.

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